TAFT TALK

No. 63 *Newsletter of the Taft Family Association* **Dec 2012**

Right: The Taft sisters: Pearl Elizabeth (left) age 6, and Dora Marie, age 8, about 1912.
Below: the home they grew up in Uxbridge at the "four corners".

That bright and spunky gal on the left is ....

Our own Pearl Elizabeth and her sister Dora Marie Taft.

In the milk crate of information that Don and Joan Messinger dropped off this summer at my house (yes, that is Dick Messinger's son), there was a small envelope of photographs. What a pleasant surprise to find Pearl Rawson with her pretty bow staring out at me. Pearl was probably listed in almost every issue of TTT until her death in 1996. She was part of the organizing committee when the Taft Family Association was re-established in 1955 and became the secretary for quite a long period of time. She continued on the Executive Committee and was very instrumental in the continuing vitality of the Association for many years.

The stucco house on Hartford Street in Uxbridge was owned by her father, Robert Taft, and was the location no doubt of a very pleasant childhood for all the children.

Pearl Elizabeth Taft was born 1 Mar 1903 in Uxbridge, MA (MAVR 534.397) and died 2 Nov 1996 in Bradenton, FL. She married Jefferson Owen Rawson and had three daughters: Barbara Ann, Marcia R. and Deborah Rawson.

Dora Maria Taft was born 9 Oct 1905 in Uxbridge, MA (MAVR 552.439) and died in 1987 in Hamburg, NY. She married Rodman S. Hamer.

Cont. see p 2

And you thought you knew all about Neil....

Sally Gagne emailed in December after reading a 2002 book "Acquiring Genomes: A Theory of the Origins of Species" by Margulis and Sagan and came upon this: "Neil Todd, as a fresh Ph. D. in zoology from Harvard University, in the early 1970s, developed his Karyotypic Fission Theory to correlate the evolutions of chromosomes with the evolutionary history of mammals." It wasn't accepted at the time. "Neil Todd was and is a numismatist and genealogist, with impressive expertise in seventeenth to nineteenth century Irish tavern tokens as well as in cat genetics." When Neil is feeling a little better, he will have to bring us up to speed with an article on where his theory has taken him since the 1970s. (Neil reports his initial thesis was on the response / reactions of cats to catnip and he doesn't believe anyone has furthered that study!)

I visited Neil and Joyce at their home recently. He is home from the hospital and on the mend. Joyce has been diligently passing on information and queries received concerning Tafts until Neil is back in fine fettle. We have heard from a few people, including one from England, who are interested in the DNA study. As Neil points out our first question has been answered: Matthew and Robert Taft were not closely related. He also notes that our quest for our ancestor's origins in England would make DNA testing of British Isles folks desirable, but really only helpful to us if they can follow their own ancestry back several generations, preferably to the 17th century. We did recognize however that we only had one Thomas line descendant in our study and that result was an anomaly; so if there is another Thomas descendant (male) who would be willing to have his DNA test done, that would be important to establishing the certainty of Thomas being the son of Robert and Mary. Any other result would be quite a shock, I must admit!

That bright and spunky gal *Cont from p 1*

Robert Taft was born 9 May 1875 in Uxbridge, MA (VRMA 269.379) and died in Jun 1969 in Uxbridge, MA. He was the son of Abbie A. Whipple and Dandridge Gordon (Warner, Samuel, Israel, Robert, Robert) Taft.

Robert Taft married (1) 19 Jun 1900 Uxbridge, MA (MAVR 502.375) Mary Elizabeth Lovett, born in 1880 in Douglas, MA, died 1 Jul 1913 in Uxbridge, MA (MAVR 99.395), the daughter of Samuel Lovett and Ellen Brown. They had three children: Robert Lovett, Pearl Elizabeth and Dora Maria Taft. Robert married (2) 16 May 1915 Holden, MA (MAVR 633.441) Silda Cnossen, born 19 Jun 1894 in the Netherlands, died 13 Sep 1957 in Uxbridge, MA, the daughter of John Cnossen and Alice DeVries. They had four children: Ernest, Kenneth D., William E., and Patricia A. Taft. The parents are all buried in the Prospect Hill Cemetery, Uxbridge, MA.

In the 1900 census for Uxbridge Robert is listed as an ice dealer, and in 1910 and 1920, the president of the ice company. In 1930 he is listed as a farmer, living on Rivulet St. In 1940 his family was still on Rivulet St. where he is once again listed as an ice dealer.

And the lady to the left who was in the same packet of photos?

Maude Spring Gough was born in 1883 in Woodstock, CT and died 29 Aug 1971 in Northbridge, MA (MAVR), the daughter of William E. Gough and Mary Emma Spring. She married 28 Oct 1902 in Grafton, MA (MAVR 526.295) Lyman S. Taft. Lyman S. Taft was born 28 Apr 1871 in Uxbridge, MA (MAVR 234.318), the son of Abbie A. Whipple and Dandridge Gordon Taft. Thus she was the sister-in-law of Robert Taft and the aunt of Pearl and Dora. Lyman S. was a helper in his brother's ice business as well as a farmer.

Louise Plumley writes from PA:

She remembers the time that Jim Dorsey as President of the TFA went to their reunion in PA, but alas we haven't heard directly from Jim in quite a while. She mentions that they have given up their reunions but they still gather at the one room schoolhouse every year. She started their gathering and was president for 23 years and now the younger generation is continuing the work. (They now meet three times a year and everyone is welcome). Bob is doing much better and continues to bake up a storm: bread, donuts... He was 86 in Oct and Louise 82 – they have been married almost 62 years (next Feb. 2). Their daughter Sharon had to stop work for a while and was under doctor's care but manages to take them where they need to go and their grandchild Ryan helps as well. Louise also mentioned the mild winter last year (she doesn't seem to mind that either). Louise wishes all her cousins well and God Bless.

IN MEMORIAM

Marion Louise (Congdon) Taft

Photo from Carr Funeral Home

The Taft Family has lost another devoted friend and supporter and our heartfelt sympathies go to her family who have been long-time members of our association.

Marion Louise (Congdon) Taft, longtime resident of Marlborough, passed away peacefully in her sleep Sunday evening, August 12, 2012.

"Marion was born 4 Mar 1920 in Hopedale, MA, the youngest daughter of Charles and Annie (Phillips) Congdon of Hopedale. She attended the Hopedale Public Schools prior to earning her teaching degree in 1942 from the State Teacher's College at Framingham. For several years thereafter Marion worked as an instructor, librarian, and drama coach for the Fairhaven and Greenfield Public School districts. In September 1965, she married Robert D. Taft and moved to Marlborough where she served 18 years as Marlborough High's school librarian, retiring in 1983. Many will also remember Marion's quick smile and friendly laugh as she worked the family fruit stand at Taft Orchards in Mendon.

"In addition to a passion for knowledge and the arts, Marion enjoyed travel, golf, tending to her apple trees and blueberry bushes and most importantly, getting together with her family and friends. Until recent events prevented her from doing so, Marion devoted countless hours visiting those in hospitals and nursing homes.

"Marion was a lifelong member of the Hopedale Unitarian Church, a member of the Hopedale High Alumni, the National Education Association, and Retired Teachers Association.

"Marion leaves behind her niece, Priscilla (Congdon) Koopman of Northbridge; her two grandnieces, Dawn Lefrancois of Uxbridge and Shelby Taylor of Parkman, ME; one grandnephew, Jeff Koopman of Northbridge; 7 great-grand nieces and nephews, Deanna, Daniel, Sarah, Anika, Ted, Carleigh, and Isla; and her sister-in-law, Helen (Taft) Congdon of Mendon. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Taft; her sister, Eleanor (Congdon) Allen; her brother, Robert Congdon; and a niece, Marjorie Congdon. In addition, Mrs. Taft leaves behind many very good friends and former students, many of whom kept in touch with her regularly until the time of her death." *(source Carr Funeral Home Online)*

Marion's husband, Robert D. Taft was the son of Mary Emily Benner and Clarence Augustus (Austin Augustus, Amariah, Jotham, Caleb, Daniel, Robert) Taft.

How Many For Christmas Dinner?

By Col. Thomas L. Thacker, USAF (Ret.) (*source: lanamarieblog.blogspot.com Friends Journal 5 Nov 2012)*

By the end of 1944, living conditions for our fighter group were the best in nearly three years overseas. We were stationed on the east coast of Italy, near the Adriatic Sea, well behind the front lines. The pilots of the 52nd Fighter Group were flying their P-51 Mustangs, escorting the heavy bombers of the Fifteenth Air Force almost daily on missions to central Europe. Except for the risk of not coming home, it was almost like going to the office each day.

Everybody was living in some type of winterized shelter, a simple building or a tent with plywood sidewalls and a brick floor. Personally, I was sharing a British Nissen hut with three other officers.

Food supplies were regular and. compared with some earlier periods, not too bad. Still too much Spam and powdered eggs, but there were fresh items too, including fresh meat from time to time. On December 24 we had our turkeys and fixings for the following day. Weather had been quite foul for several days with the promise of more in the future. This was when the Battle of the Bulge was raging about 500 miles northwest of us. Despite the weather, long-range missions were being flown whenever possible in an effort to aid our struggling friends.

So, all the wings of 13-24 bombers plus a wing of B-17s of the Fifteenth Air Force were out this day against some strategic target. The fighters went too, including ours. By mid-afternoon our Mustangs were all safely home, despite the weather, and soon afterward we could hear the heavies going overhead, somewhere up in the cloud cover.

Then to our surprise, a B-17 broke through the low clouds and headed for our landing strip. For some reason, probably low on fuel, it landed, and the crew indicated that they intended to remain at least overnight. This was no problem as we were accustomed to having unannounced guests.

The scene changed drastically a few minutes later when one, then several more, B-24 Liberators began arriving. They, too, were low on fuel and anticipated worse weather around the Italian spur which they would have to fly through to get to their base.

A total of 20 B-24s plus one B-17 visited us that day. With each carrying a crew of ten, we had the equivalent of an additional squadron that we would have to accommodate at least overnight. As the Group S-4 (supply), I had a real logistics problem. At most, we could provide spare cots and blankets for 20 to 25 extra folks.

I got on the telephone while my assistants went to work identifying locations where we could put all those people. Each of our squadrons could accommodate a few. Then we assigned crews to the public areas, including the chapel, and the operations briefing room. Some went into our offices. All would be bedded down if and when we located enough cots and blankets.

I remember that my first call was to the 332nd Fighter Group, the unit just down the road. They sent everything not actually in use. The service units in the area came next on my call list, along with the other fighter groups based further away. Everybody loaned us something. By 10:00 p.m. we had everybody billeted and even had a few beds to spare.

Food that night was not a serious problem. Each squadron simply prepared for about 70 extra folks. Christmas dinner the next day was somewhat more difficult, as there was no way to obtain more holiday rations. So we decreased the portions and added whatever was available on the side. The bakers increased the number of hot rolls prepared overnight.

Actually, the total experience was an interesting exercise in emergency reaction, and the result was surprisingly satisfactory. The Liberator crews stayed with us until New Year's Day, and we were able to draw extra rations for them starting the day after Christmas. Since the weather was so bad and not much was happening, we really enjoyed our visitors and I think they felt the same.

On January 1, 1945, the sun came out for the first time in about two weeks. The lone B-17 had departed a few days earlier, and the B-24s all took off that morning. A few days later, a very nice letter from the B-24 group commander arrived, thanking us for our hospitality.

Brian Thacker mentions

A MASSIVE yearbook from Mass Ag College (now the University of Massachusetts, Amherst) in the mid-1800s, apparently Levi R. Taft's graduation year has surfaced. He says it "must weigh ten pounds, and covers half a coffee table. And the covers are falling off." Does anyone want to add this to their library?

If so, let us know.

In Memoriam

Col. Thomas Leonard Thacker

Family photo in Friends Journal

Brian Thacker reported the passing of his father Thomas Leonard Thacker, both of whom have been members of our Taft Family Association.

Col. Thomas Leonard Thacker, son of Ralph Leonard and Harriet Thacker was born 14 Aug 1918 in LeRoy, Osceola, MI and died 27 Sep 2012 in Fairborn, OH. He married 4 Apr 1942 in Florence, SC Margaret Ryall "Peg" Taft born 12 May 1919 in South Haven, MI, died 13 Sep 2001 in Dayton, OH , the daughter of Rose Georgia "Fuchia" Ryall and Howard Austin (Levi Rawson, Austin Augustus, Amariah, Jotham, Caleb, Daniel, Robert) Taft.

He was a retired Air Force officer, World War II veteran, and later a realtor in the Dayton area. He was a proud volunteer at the National Museum of the U.S.A.F. for many years. Col. Thacker is survived by his children Brian T. Thacker, Susan Thacker Utzinger, Rebecca Thacker-Clare, and Thomas H. Thacker, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The Friends Journal writes: "It is with great sadness we report the recent death of author Thomas L. Thacker, age 94, of Fairborn, OH. Tom was a member of the Friends program and a volunteer at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force for many years. He volunteered in various areas at the Museum, including the Foundation offices as a volunteer proofreader. A prolific writer, he authored 14 articles for the Journal over the last 20 years, providing colorful stories of his Air Force service as a supply officer with the 52nd Fighter Group during World War II (see below and p. 4). He remained on active duty until retiring as a Colonel in 1968, and then became a real estate broker for the next 32 years."

His granddaughter remembers him as a "charming, sweet man … who welcomed me and my little family of daughters into his family. He was warm and caring and concerned and the girls got to grow up with the extreme privilege of having a great grand father in their lives."

Sources: lanamarieblog.blogspot.com Friends Journal; www.legacy.com; the BeltonStroup.com

My Life With the 52nd Fighter Group by Col. Thomas L Thacker (Ret).

A description of just one of Col. Thacker's writings as listed in the lulu.com catalog includes:

"My Life with the 52nd Fighter Group is the first-hand view of a young supply officer's experiences during WW II, in and around the Mediterranean Sea. This book is rich with facts and details, romance, humor and tragedy.

From northern Michigan through North Africa to Sicily and Rome, from troop ships and C-rations to moonshine stills and slit trenches, these stories will tell you everything you wanted to know about how the troops were fed and moved and how the planes were kept flying.

In these pages you'll encounter HRM King George, Generals Eisenhower and Patton, the US Table Tennis Champions, "Camelman" Montour, and Duckworth the squadron dog. You'll meet pilots, support staff, visiting celebrities, ladies of the night, and prisoners of war. You'll hear the stories behind the 52nd Squadron's impressive record of victories and the heartbreak of losses."

Source: www.lulu.com

An enigma solved: Adella Rena (Havens) Slocum Worden MacArthur Tafft

The ancestry of two of Henry Spurr Tafft's wives is well-known (see inset), but the third has been an enigma. Family lore only stated that she was a journalist, not interested in taking care of his two youngest daughters, Louise and Marguerite, and somehow connected to Michigan (Taft Tree Talk May 1993 p. 11). According to Civil War pension records Adella R. Tafft filed as the widow of Capt. Henry Tafft (Co. H, MA Infantry, Capt Sig Corp USA) 31 Jan 1905 in RI, and then again 21 Nov 1916 in NY *(freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com)*. After searching many sites and censuses, Adella's family and previous marriages have been pieced together.

The notice of their marriage in the Pawtucket Times dated 16 Sep 1903 began the process of unraveling the mystery behind her life. It reads as follows *(www.nextech.de/ma15mvi)*:

> *"Col. Henry S. Tafft a prominent resident of this city and Mrs. Adella R. MacArthur of Detroit Mich., were united in marriage at 10 o'clock yesterday morning by Rev. Henry I. Cushman, pastor of the First Universalist Church. On their return from their bridal tour, Col. and Mrs. Tafft will reside at The Hermitage 333 Laurel Hill Avenue.*
>
> *"Col. Henry S. Tafft is president of the Rhode Island Metaphysical Association, and is well known in social, religious and military circles. He is prominent in local Grand Army circles, being a member and past commander of Rodman Post, G. A. R. He has been a resident of this state for 20 years.*
>
> *"Mrs. Tafft became the wife of William MacArthur, one of the largest lumber dealers in the West. About five years ago she published a religious novel entitled, 'That Romanist' and many of her poems have been published from time to time. Since Mr. MacArthur's death in 1894 she has given her time and talents to the development of a system of self-culture and has become prominent in metaphysical teaching. Her lectures have been given mostly in the west."*

How did they meet? It would appear that their lives intersected through the metaphysical world. As stated above, Henry S. Tafft was President of the RI Metaphysical Society. At the 2nd Annual Convention of the International Metaphysical League in 1901 held in Boston, MA the speakers included both Henry S. Tafft and Adella R. MacArthur. Perhaps they had met before, but they certainly had opportunity to converse at this conference.

After Henry's death in 1909, Adella R. Tafft is in the 1910 Census at 22nd St. East, Manhattan, NY, NY, lodger, aged 89, twice widowed having had two children. In the 1920 census she is in Detroit, MI at 580 Hurlburt Street in the home of her daughter's family, William and Margherita Pipe and their children: William M., Harvey and Alice Pipe. William Pipe was an electrician and Margherita a druggist, both listed as born in Canada (note: there are major discrepancies about birth locations for all these individuals in the various censuses).

Adella Rena Havens was born 26 Dec 1847, probably NY, and died after 1926, perhaps in MI or IN, the daughter of George Washington Havens, merchant, and Eliza Jane Pratt. Their family lived in Burns, Allegany, NY in 1850 and in Nunda, Livingston, NY in 1860. Adella had three brothers: John G. Havens, Stephen P. Havens, and Cassius M. Havens. *(trees.ancestry.com / Sue's Line #8195; Descendants of Robert Kenyon and Ruth Barber Kenyon of Greenwich, RI and Greenwich, NY; 1850, 1860 federal census).*

Adella Rena Havens married (1) 2 Aug 1866 probably in Nunda, Livingston, NY Adello John Slocum. Adello John Slocum was born 7 Jan 1844 in Nunda, Livingston, NY, the son of Philip Gould Slocum and Fanny Seaver and died in Oct 1866 in IA, buried in Nunda, NY. Adello Slocum and William S. Eddy were "editing a paper and were fast receiving honors and prosperity when they both were taken sick and died. Adello was brought back to Nunda for burial. A marker over his grave bears this inscription 'Our noble boy.'"

Adella Rena (Havens) Slocum of Ypsilanti, MI, married (2) 31 Dec 1867 in the Baptist Church, Galesburg, Kalamazoo, MI Alva Worden, his first marriage, the marriage performed by H. B. Fuller, pastor. Alva Worden was listed as "dealer" and witnesses were her brother John G. Havens and his wife Mrs. Frances Havens, of Augusta, MI. Adella and Alva Worden were divorced, although the date is unknown at this time. *(Worden: a Weir in the Valley by Waite W. Worden, East Burke, VT 1992 p 110)*

Alva John Worden was born 24 Mar 1820, in Batavia, Genesee, NY, the son of John S. Worden, Sr and Sophia Rorabeck, and died 18 Jan 1902 in Ypsilanti, Washtenaw, MI, buried in the

Cont p 8

Henry Spurr Tafft was born 13 Mar 1834 in Charlton, MA (VR 95), the son of Smith and Hannah (Albee) Lillie Taft, and died 9 May 1909 in Providence, RI (RIVR 23.152). He married (1) 25 Dec 1855 in Northbridge, Worcester, MA (TR p 7) Emma Amelia Plummer, born 21 Sep 1835 in Northbridge, MA (VR 65), the daughter of Israel and Amelia Taft (Cooper) Plummer, and died 21 Aug 1884 in Cambridge, MA (MAVR 356.65). They had five children: Israel Plummer, Anita, Grace Chesbro, Harry Jerome and Henry Taft. He married (2) 12 May 1885 in Providence, RI (RIVR) Catharine Edmands Webster, born 23 May 1849 in Boston, MA (MAVR 36.167), the daughter of David Henry and Sabrina (Plummer) Webster, and died 11 Oct 1902 in Providence, RI (RIVR 21.27). They had two children: Violet Louise and Marguerite Webster Taft. He married (3) 15 Sep 1903 Providence, RI (RIVR vol 6.1027, 19.379) Adella R. MacArthur.

Looking for cousins

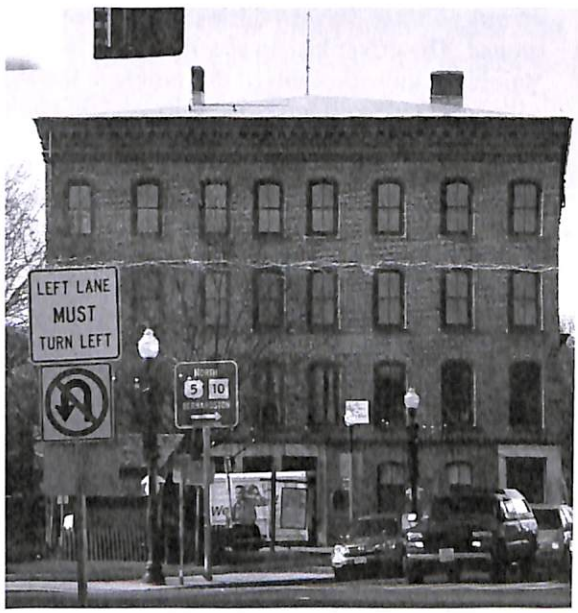
We recently took a very long trip to Australia and New Zealand. I hoped we might be able to visit our Australian cousins. You would think after traveling all that way from Boston to Cairns, why not? Well Australia is a BIG country and it would have been another 3,000 miles – not enough time, unfortunately for us. I was told by a gentleman from Perth, that Cowaramup is a beautiful location. Of course wracking my memory I pronounced it Cow-a-rump and he had no idea what I was talking about until he re-pronounced it Co-war-a-mup. My apologies to all.

The city is on the southwest coast in the Margaret River Wine Region and thus is close to a number of wineries, a chocolate factory and a cheese company. The bay has a popular swimming and surfing beach which entices a large number of tourists.

"The name Cowaramup derives its name from Cowaramup Siding, which was located near the townsite, on the now disused Busselton to Augusta railway. The townsite was gazetted in 1925 originally to support the timber and dairy industries. The name is believed to be derived from the Aboriginal word "*Cowara*", meaning Purple-crowned Lorikeet. Locals from the region often refer to the town as 'Cowtown', a reference to the use of 'cow' in the town's name and its history of dairy farming. " *(source: en.wikipedia)*

ArtsBlock surprise

The other night we attended a fund-raiser for the Franklin Land Trust. In the course of the evening we were given a tour of the Arms Block Building now known as ArtsBlock.



Arms Block Building, Greenfield, MA now the ArtsBlock

Originally built in 1869 by George Arms the four story17,000 square foot brick structure housed a hardware and supply store, a clothing store, a medical office, printing company and more. Currently it is now the home of ArtsBlock which offers three floors of live performing space. The basement contains The Wheelhouse, which accommodates up to 110 people, and our surprise: there on the wall was written: "Richard O. Taft 1896."

Our graffiti artist was Richard Nickerson Oakman Taft who was born in Nov 1885 and died in Mar 1962 in Dade Co., FL (FLVR), the son of Nellie P. Oakman and Eugene Stratton (George Hubbard, Merrill, Lyman, Samuel, Israel, Robert) Taft. Richard N. O. Taft married (1) 31 Jan 1909 in Farley (Erving), Franklin, MA (MAVR 587.15) Mildred C. Russell, born 10 Oct 1886 in Hinsdale, NH, died 24 Jan 1970 in Sunderland, MA (MAVR), the daughter of Charles E. and Allie (Chapell) Russell. Richard N. O. Taft married (2) between 1930 (listed with wife Mildred) and 1940 (listed with wife Lillian) Lillian H. Stockwell, born about 1893 in MA, the adopted daughter of Wesley A. and Mary L. Stockwell of North Hadley, MA (1930 US Census: this family was enumerated as family number 69 and Richard N. O. Taft's family was enumerated as family number 71). Richard and Lillian were buried in the North Hadley Cemetery. Richard N. O. and Mildred C. (Russell) Taft had two children: 1. Barbara Taft who married Clarence J. Sanders; and 2. Russell Eugene Taft who married Constance P. Lothrop.

In the 1912 Town Directory for Amherst Richard is listed with his father, Eugene S. Taft, both grocers (his father also the postmaster). From 1914-1921 he is listed in the household of his mother. From 1923 – 1928 Mildred is listed with him and the firm of LaSalle and Taft is named. LaSalle and Taft were ice cream manufacturers, whose proprietors were James J. LaSalle and Richard N. O. Taft. From 1910-1930 his occupations was variously listed as a retail merchant of groceries, farmer, and a hardware salesman. In his WW I Registration Richard is listed as tall and slender with grey eyes and brown hair. By 1945 he and his second wife were living at 1020 NW 44th St., Miami, Dade, FL.

Supporters of the Smith College Yearbooks included LaSalle and Taft, manufacturers of frozen delicacies at 11 Hawley St., Northampton, MA. *(source: Archive.org/stream/class1931smit)*

If your label reads 2009, you will no longer receive this newsletter. Please contact our treasurer right away, so you don't miss the next newsletter. Thank you.

An enigma solved (cont from p 6)

Highland Park Cemetery. Adella Havens was a "stunningly beautiful and very young woman" who had worked for Worden & Bros before her marriage. Alva and Adella Worden had two children: Frank Alva Worden and an adopted son, Joseph Blood. *(Ibid p 110)*

The Worden family had moved to Superior Co., MI when Alva was a child. Alva Worden then moved to Ypsilanti, MI where he learned the tinner's trade and in 1843 he and his brothers, Chauncey Perry and John S. Jr. Worden created the sheet metal company of Worden & Bros. *(ibid p 110)*

In the 1870 census for Ypsilanti, MI Adella's father, George W. Havens was listed as a salesman in the whipsocket business. Next in the enumeration was the family of Alva and Adella Worden in which Alva is listed as manufacturing whipsockets with a real estate value of $15,000 and personal value of $1,600. This family unit included their son, Frank, Alva's father, John S. Worden, Sr. and his nephew, Charley S. Worden. *(1870 federal census)*

Alva Worden had several inventions, the most notable and lucrative of which was the whipsocket. "A problem of the day for drivers of horse-drawn vehicles was where to put the whip when not in use. If merely laid aside, it would frequently fall to the ground. The driver had no special place to put it, and often had trouble finding it when needed, especially in the darkness. The Worden Whipsocket solved this problem. It was a simple device designed to hold the butt of the whip snugly when not in use, from which it could be retrieved by a slight tug. It was mounted on the dashboard or the carriage seat. Thus it was that Alva Worden and one Henry M. Curtis … were granted a patent under Letters-Patent No. 70,075 on October 22, 1867, for "an improvement in self-adjusting whip-holder." This business was highly successful and he was able to build a large brick home, located on Congress St. (now East Michigan Ave.) next to his brothers. They all lived in "elegant style, including handsome carriages and teams of horses outfitted in harnesses with silver fittings." In 1880 Alva Worden and his remaining partner John S. Worden, Jr. were sued for patent infringement (US Circuit Court for the Eastern District of MI). By the time the suit was ultimately settled seven years later in their favor through appeal to the US Supreme Court, the firm had suffered irreversible financial setbacks. In 1882 he was issued another patent (No 263,084) which improved the design of the holder. "The nature of the improvement was that of designing the entire device in the shape of a slightly-curved cylinder, the diameter of which was constant from top to bottom, to eliminate rattle and wear of the butt of the whip." *(Worden: a Weir in the Valley by Waite W. Worden, East Burke, VT 1992 p 110; trees.ancestry.com/ Sue's Line #8195; (History of Washtenaw County, MI: together with sketches.... vol 2 by Chas C Chapman & Co p 1239)*

Adella Rena (Havens) Slocum Worden married (3) William MacArthur *(trees.ancestry.com/ Sue's Line #8195)*

William MacArthur was born in Scotland according to his daughter's 1920 census information. William and Adella MacArthur had one daughter: Margherita / Marguerite A. MacArthur born in 1882 in MI. She married about 1898 William Pipe who was born about 1862 in CAN. They had three children: William M., Harvey and Alice Pipe.

According to the marriage announcement for Henry Spurr Tafft and Adella R. MacArthur, William MacArthur was "one of the largest lumber dealers in the West." No more has been found on him at this time. It would seem as though he were died if the 1910 census is accurate (she was listed as twice widowed).

Adella R. MacArthur was an author of poetry, and dramatic compositions as well as articles and lectures on metaphysics. In 1902 she copyrighted "Aphrodite Pontia: or The Beauty Box" a musical drama in one act, also "Aphrodite's Awakening" both in Detroit, MI. She is most known for her 364 page novel "That Romanist" written in 1895. According to reviews of the novel "the scene of 'That Romanist' is laid for the most part in the South, which has some of its hotels puffed undisguisedly. The story is of the love of a Protestant minister [Paul] for a Catholic [Lenorah], and the author, Adella R. MacArthur, believing that all differences of religion should be of no consequence when love is in question, has put her belief into a readable novel." *(Public Opinion Vol 21 p 740; The Dial vol 21 by Marianne Moore p 294 ; The Annual American Catalogue 1897 Literary Criticism; www.archive.org/stream)*

At this point her death and burial are unknown although Waite W. Worden states: "Adella, a stunnningly beautiful and very young woman [when she married Alva John Worden] [was in] her very late years, still a handsome woman, white-haired and erect, living in New York City, she occasionally visited our family home in Millburn, NJ to visit her son, Frank Alva, who lived with us for a few years prior to his death in 1928. Soon after that she "went back west," perhaps to Michigan, or, some say, Indiana." *(Worden: A Weir in the Valley by Waite W Worden, East Burke, VT 1992)*

Research from our members with many thanks

John Magee of Gloversville, NY sent Neil a letter detailing information he has found on the Lewis and Belinda (Dewey) Taft family. Lewis Taft was the son of Elizabeth Cruff and Silas (Stephen, Benjamin, Robert) Taft. Their daughter Rhoda married Albert Bragham Magee in the late 1820s.

From the Records of the Carlisle Presbyterian Church, Schoharie Co., Carlisle, NY (Baptisms 1832-1890, Marriages 1884-1889) transcribed by George H. Ryon in 1984. This transcription can be found in volume 2 of "Churches Schoharie County" bound by Donald Keefer on 23 Jan 1991:

13 May 1832	Rhoda Magee was baptized
11 Nov 1832	Abraham Lewis, infant son of Albert and Rhoda Magee, was baptized
24 Jul 1832	Eliza Taft, adult, was baptized
10 Mar 1833	Israel and Amos Taft, adults, were baptized
6 Sep 1835	Eunice and Sarah Elizabeth, infant daughter of Albert and Rhoda Magee were baptized.

A decade ago the pastor of the Carlisle Presbyterian Church told John that the records of the church had been lost. "It seems that some wise member gave them to the Schoharie county archivist and folks forgot they existed." John also states "Rhoda's baptisms on the north and south sides of the Mohawk may indicate that at least some of the family of Lewis and Belinda stayed around the area for sometime before moving to Triangle in Broome County, NY. With the building of the Erie Canal in the 1820s there was plenty of work to be had all along the Mohawk. Albert's siblings moved from Schenectady County, Guilderland Center area to northern Schoharie County, Duanesburg and Princetown areas before moving to Camden, Triangle and Michigan. "

Best wishes in getting your Magees into print this winter.

Judi Lancaster

Judi wanted to provide information regarding the children of "Ira/Polly [Graves] Taft." Her first husband was a Taylor, and her children are Taft-related through Samantha Taft Taylor.

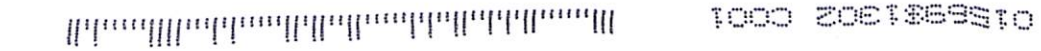
The following Tafts are buried in Grandview Cemetery, Ft. Collins, Colorado:

Mary Taft (wife of J.J. Dadmun) - 1837 - 1883
Capt. H.F. Taylor (he served w/2nd Vt. Regt; married to Samantha Taft) - 1839 - 1878
Samantha Taft Taylor - 1841 - 1927
Ester Taft Kimball (wife of Samuel) - 1828 - 1911
Samuel Choate Kimball - 1821 - 1899
Walter Louis Kimball [child?] - 1883 - 1905
Louis B. Taft - 1839 - 1915
Sylvia Taft Chamberlin (wife of H.W. Chamberlin) - 1827 - 1889
Walter DeWitt Taft - 1832 - 1917
Caroline Frazer Taft (wife of Walter) - 1847 – 1941

Judi says "as to the Taft family, I am NOT the direct relative; this is my children's line. My husband, Robert W. Taylor, who died in 1985, was the son of Frank W. Taylor, son of Guy Taft Taylor, who was Samantha Taft Taylor's son. Unfortunately, I have not been to Colorado since the early 1980's. After their father's death, my children did make several trips to Colo. Springs to visit their grandfather and, lastly, attend his funeral in 1991. My youngest grandchild, a 15-year old grandson, is into everything civil war-related. So, he really loves the fact that his 3rd great grandfather was a Captain with the 2nd Vt. Inf. Regt. (Horatio Foster Taylor, husband of Samantha Taft). "

"My father-in-law donated various items to the Pioneer Museum in Colo. Springs, which included various Taft/Taylor/Whitman family photographs, along with Capt. Taylor's uniform.

Taft Family Association Officers

President: still searching
Vice President & Genealogist: Neil B. Todd, 26 Walnut Place, Newtonville, MA 02460 neilbtodd@cs.com
Secretary/Treasurer: Pat Allen, 77 Greenfield Rd. , Montague, MA 01351; patallen7@verizon.net
Newsletter Editor: Pat Allen, 77 Greenfield Rd., Montague, MA 01351 patallen7@verizon.net
Website Editor: David W. Taft, Alpharetta, GA http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~taft/
Executive Committee: Berneta DeVries, Robert Curtis, Justin Taft, Charles F. Davis Jr., Sally Gagne, Wendy Cadieux

Annual dues of $8 per family are due and payable each year on or before June.
(Your dues are paid through the year on your mailing label.)